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UNCLAS PARIS 003151

SIPDIS

STATE FOR PM/DTCC - BLUE LANTERN COORDINATOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [KOMC](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: FRANCE: BLUE LANTERN LEVEL 3: PRE-LICENSE END USE

CHECK ON APPLICATIONS 05-949555 and 05-912669

REF: STATE 33797

1. As requested reftel, post reached out to the French entities Zodiac Aerazur and Aerazur Superflexit, both of whom responded to our questions on May 6. Both confirmed that they are two divisions of the same company, Aerazur.

2. Mr. Trontin of Aerazur Superflexit confirmed that his company had placed an order for the items listed in reftel, para 4B. He explained that these parts related to electric "harness" and cable systems, which communicate information to the pilot for the "EFA" Eurofighter program. Trontin said that the equipment is currently with their client, Liebherr Aerospace. According to their web site (www.liebherr.com), the Liebherr Group is a family business based primarily in Germany, with a Swiss holding company, Liebherr-International AG. Liebherr Aerospace is one of several divisions. Liebherr is "one of the world's leading manufacturers of construction machinery .. (and) an acknowledged supplier of technically innovative user-oriented products and services in numerous other fields." During our conversation with Mr. Trontin, he promised a more complete response by letter.

3. Post blue lantern action officer also spoke with Philippe Dore of Zodiac Aerazur, who said that his company has been placing three orders per year for 30 years for this kind of safety foam from U.S. supplier company Foamex. The foam is used in the manufacture of fuel tanks to minimize risk of accidents or leaks. Mr. Dore faxed us a copy of the most recent actual orders (faxed to PM/DTCC on May 10), which had been sent to Foamex: one for 30 buns of orange safety foam (for October 22, 2004, delivery) and another for 180 buns of blue safety foam (for January 18, 2005, delivery). For the Type I orange safety foam, the order specifies a bun of 40" x 80" x 5", while the bun for the Type IV blue safety foam is 2300mm x 469mm x 250mm.

4. In both cases, the Aerazur purchase orders say "The commodities that are the subject of this purchase order 2014-2171789 will be used in connection with the manufacture of fuel tanks for military vehicles and racing cars." The order forms also went on to say "The following statement shall be incorporated as an integral part of the bill of lading, and the invoice: 'These commodities are authorized by the U.S. Government for export to FRANCE for Zodiac - Aerazur. They may not be resold, diverted, transferred, transhipped, or otherwise be disposed of in any other country, either in their original form or after being incorporated through an intermediate process is not other end-items, without the prior written approval of the U.S. Department of State.'"

5. Mr. Dore said that these orders are for helicopters for Eurocopter and other companies. This was explained further in the order forms, which specified:

(quote)

The end use and end user:

Foam for Fuel Cell Tank of Obussier Tank for Rheinmetall Company in Germany.

Foam for Fuel Cell Tank of Wiesel Tank for Rheinmetall Company in Germany.

Foam for Fuel Cell Tank of Microturbo military car for Microturbo in France.

Foam for Fuel Cell Tank of Tiger helicopter for Eurocopter Company in France.

(end quote)

After giving mailing addresses for each of the three companies listed above, the order form notes that "For the point no 4 the French and German governments can sold (sic) to another European government" which appears to refer to fuel tanks provided for the Tiger helicopter, but this seems to conflict with the earlier citation concerning prohibition against resale or transfer to "any other country" without prior written approval of the U.S. Department of State. We will inquire further about this apparent contradiction, when Mr. Dore returns from vacation in mid-May.

6. Both Zodiac Aerazur and Aerazur Superflexit confirmed that they were separate divisions of the same company, Aerazur. However, only one, Aerazur Superflexit, confirmed that their order was related to the Eurofighter program. Zodiac Aerazur's order for safety foam is part of a long-standing relationship with Foamex as its supplier for the manufacture of fuel tanks

for military vehicles and racing cars, or more specifically in this case, for helicopters. Post will attempt to further corroborate these findings with appropriate French government officials.

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